

§ 222.66 How does the Secretary determine whether a fiscally independent local educational agency is making a reasonable tax effort?

(a) To determine whether a fiscally independent LEA, as defined in § 222.2(c), is making a reasonable tax effort as required by § 222.63 or § 222.64, the Secretary compares the LEA's local real property tax rates for current expenditure purposes (referred to in this part as "tax rates"), as defined in § 222.2(c), with the tax rates of its generally comparable LEAs.

(b) For purposes of this section, the Secretary uses—

(1) Actual tax rates if all the real property in the LEA and its generally comparable LEAs is assessed at the same percentage of true value; or

(2) Tax rates computed under §§ 222.67–222.69.

(c) The Secretary determines that an LEA described in § 222.62(a) or (d) is making a reasonable tax effort if—

(1) The LEA's tax rate is equal to at least 95 percent of the average tax rate of its generally comparable LEAs;

(2) Each of the LEA's tax rates for each classification of real property is equal to at least 95 percent of each of the average tax rates of its generally comparable LEAs for the same classification of property;

(3) The LEA taxes all of its real property at the maximum rates allowed by the State, if those maximum rates apply uniformly to all LEAs in the State; or

(4) The LEA has no taxable real property.

(d) The Secretary determines that an LEA described in § 222.62(b) is making a reasonable tax effort if—

(1) The LEA's tax rate is equal to at least 125 percent of the average tax rate of its generally comparable LEAs;

(2) Each of the LEA's tax rates for each classification of real property is equal to at least 125 percent of each of the average tax rates of its generally comparable LEAs for the same classification of property;

(3) The LEA taxes all of its real property at the maximum rates allowed by the State, if those maximum rates apply uniformly to all LEAs in the State; or

(4) The LEA has no taxable real property.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 7703(f))

§ 222.67 What tax rates does the Secretary use if real property is assessed at different percentages of true value?

If the real property of an LEA and its generally comparable LEAs consists of one classification of property but the property is assessed at different percentages of true value in the different LEAs, the Secretary determines whether the LEA is making a reasonable tax effort under § 222.66(c)(1) or (d)(1) by using tax rates computed by—

(a) Multiplying the LEA's actual tax rate for real property by the percentage of true value assigned to that property for tax purposes; and

(b) Performing the computation in paragraph (a) of this section for each of its generally comparable LEAs and determining the average of those computed tax rates.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1810-0036)

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 7703(f))

§ 222.68 What tax rates does the Secretary use if two or more different classifications of real property are taxed at different rates?

If the real property of an LEA and its generally comparable LEAs consists of two or more classifications of real property taxed at different rates, the Secretary determines whether the LEA is making a reasonable tax effort under § 222.66(c)(1) or (2) or § 222.66(d)(1) or (2) by using one of the following:

(a) Actual tax rates for each of the classifications of real property.

(b) Tax rates computed in accordance with § 222.67 for each of the classifications of real property.

(c) Tax rates computed by—

(1) Determining the total true value of all real property in the LEA by dividing the assessed value of each classification of real property in the LEA by the percentage of true value assigned to that property for tax purposes and aggregating the results;

(2) Determining the LEA's total revenues derived from local real property taxes for current expenditures (as defined in section 8013);